

REMARKS

By this paper, Claims 1, 12, 25, and 31 are amended. No claims are added or canceled. This amendment is made prior to payment of the issue fee.

Entry of the amendments is requested to ensure that the independent method claims conform with current guidelines for statutory eligibility under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicants submit that the amendments add no new matter to the claims and do not necessitate a new search. Applicants further note that both the Notice of Allowance and the Board of Appeals' treatment of the claims evidence that the allowed claims may already be in conformance with current guidelines for statutory eligibility under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicants will therefore understand the Office's refusal to enter the amended claims as confirmation that the claims, as allowed, do indeed conform to current guidelines for statutory eligibility under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request entry of the claims added herein. It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER
LLP

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